

April 8, 2013

Mr. Helder Gil
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 Fourth Street SW
Room 5164
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Gil,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kristina Kern and I am the sole owner of Stella*s PopKern, a snack truck that operates M-F during the lunch hour in DC. In addition, we do catering during the week and on weekends.

I am writing to comment on the proposed rules and regulations set forth in the Fourth Proposed Rulemaking for Street Vending. But first I'd like to tell you a little bit about my business. After much research and thought, I decided to launch a food truck in February of last year. I was initially going in the direction of a brick and mortar establishment, and as a single mother, decided that would be too risky since I could've had the potential to lose my only asset at the time, my home. Opening a food truck to really test market my product in DC was a viable option and one I took. Mr. Gil, creating this business from nothing is an achievement that I am so proud of and I relish in the fact that I am able thus far to sustain it and watch it flourish. It took approximately five months of sweat and tears to build my truck out to get it on the road. It is the hardest project I've ever engaged in, but also the most rewarding. I am proud to say that I employ three people now, I pay a business to operate my kitchen in and I pay suppliers. My business doesn't just start and end with me.

Mr. Gil, my fellow food truck owners and myself bring culinary vibrancy, employment opportunities, tax revenue and a cultural spirit to our wonderful city. I love DC and have been a resident for 24 years now. DC food trucks add to the already diverse fabric of our great city. I know that our customers look forward to the camaraderie that exists while standing in line waiting to get their lunch/snacks, and I am lucky enough to be a part of their satisfaction. We are all now experiencing tourists who are seeking our businesses out because of the buzz that has been generated via social media and other communications outlets. This is yet another way to generate revenue for our fair city. In fact, Mr. Gil, I was recently a featured blog in the Huffington Post because of the popularity of DC food trucks in our nations capital, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristina-kern/stellas-popkern>.

The proposed regulations will seriously affect all of us and quite frankly put most, if not all of us, out of business. Mr. Gil, I have a 10 year old daughter and I am relying on my truck to sustain us. If I can't operate in the higher trafficked vending areas in DC, as I am currently allowed to do, I will have to shut my business down. Needless to say, this will be detrimental to my daughter and myself.

Mr. Gil, I appeal to you to hear what we have to say. The proposed regulations, as stated, will shut down many viable businesses and hurt several families in the process while limiting consumer choices in DC. They just don't make sense Mr. Gil – please allow free enterprise to continue in our city and allow the marketplace to dictate the success of DC food establishments.

Regards,

Kristina Kern
Stella's PopKern